

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A shaving cartridge for connection to a handle, the shaving cartridge comprising:
a plastic housing having a front portion, a rear portion, two side surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, pivoting structure defining a pivot axis for pivoting of the housing with respect to the handle, and a housing axis extending from the rear portion to the front portion perpendicular to the pivot axis, the rear portion having a rear surface;
one or more shaving blades between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes that are parallel to the pivot axis and located behind the pivot axis; and
a guard at the front portion of the housing including an elastomeric member that extends along the housing axis in front of the pivot axis by a front distance that is within 45 percent of a rear distance along the housing axis from the pivot axis to the rear surface so as to provide a cartridge that is substantially balanced about the pivot axis.
2. The shaving cartridge of claim 1, wherein the front distance is within 35 percent of the rear distance.
3. The shaving cartridge of claim 1, wherein the front distance is substantially equal to the rear distance.
4. The shaving cartridge of claim 1, wherein the front distance is at least about 3.5 mm.
5. The shaving cartridge of claim 1 or 4, wherein the rear distance is at most about 11 mm.
6. The shaving cartridge of claim 1, wherein the front distance is between about 5.5 and 6.5 mm.

7. The shaving cartridge of claim 1 or 6, wherein the rear distance is between about 9.5 and 11 mm.
8. The shaving cartridge of claim 7, wherein the front distance is about 6 mm and the rear distance is about 10 mm.
9. The shaving cartridge of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.
10. The shaving cartridge of claim 9, wherein the fin extends along a fin axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the fin having a length along the fin axis that is longer than a blade length.
11. The shaving cartridge of claim 9, wherein the fin is made of a material having a Shore A hardness between about 28 and 60.
12. The shaving cartridge of claim 1, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion of the housing in a direction perpendicular to the guard axis and blade axis.
13. The shaving cartridge of claim 12, wherein the leading portion is substantially unsupported along its length.
14. The shaving cartridge of claim 12, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to deflect upon contact with a user's skin.
15. The shaving cartridge of claim 14, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to conform to a contour of the user's skin during shaving.

16. The shaving cartridge of claim 1, wherein the leading portion has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the housing, and tapers to a second, lesser thickness adjacent a center region of the guard.

17. The shaving cartridge of claim 1 further comprising a trimming assembly attached to the housing.

18. The shaving cartridge of claim 17, wherein the trimming assembly comprises a trimming blade.

19. A shaving cartridge for connection to a handle, the shaving cartridge comprising:
a housing having a front portion, a rear portion, two side edges extending from the front portion to the rear portion and pivoting structure defining a pivot axis for pivoting of the housing with respect to the handle;

one or more shaving blades between the front edge and the rear edge, the one or more blades extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes that are parallel to the pivot axis and located behind the pivot axis; and

a guard at the front portion of the housing, the guard including an elastomeric member;

wherein a front weight percentage carried by a front portion of the shaving cartridge during use is at most about 70 percent of the total weight carried by the cartridge, the front portion being free of shaving blades and being defined between a front edge of the guard and the pivot axis.

20. The shaving cartridge of claim 19, wherein the weight percentage carried by the front portion is at most about 60 percent.

21. The shaving cartridge of claim 19, wherein the weight percentage carried by the front portion is between about 70 percent and 30 percent.

22. The shaving cartridge of claim 19, wherein the weight percentage carried by the front portion is about 63 percent.
23. The shaving cartridge of claim 19, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.
24. The shaving cartridge of claim 23, wherein the fin extends along a fin axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the fin having a length along the fin axis that is longer than a blade length.
25. The shaving cartridge of claim 23, wherein the fin is made of a material having a Shore A hardness between about 28 and 60.
26. The shaving cartridge of claim 19, wherein the pivot axis is located between about 3.5 and seven millimeters from the front edge of the guard.
27. The shaving cartridge of claim 19, wherein the pivot axis is located at about six millimeters from the front edge of the guard.
28. The shaving cartridge of claim 19, wherein the elastomeric member extends along a housing axis in front of the pivot axis by a front distance that is within 35 percent of a rear distance along the housing axis from the pivot axis to a rear surface of the rear portion so as to provide a cartridge that is substantially balanced about the pivot axis, the housing axis extending from the rear portion to the front portion perpendicular to the pivot axis.
29. The shaving cartridge of claim 28, wherein the front distance is within 20 percent of the rear distance.

30. The shaving cartridge of claim 28, wherein the front distance is substantially equal to the rear distance.

31. The shaving cartridge of claim 19, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion of the housing in a direction perpendicular to the guard axis and blade axis.

32. The shaving cartridge of claim 31, wherein the leading portion is substantially unsupported along its length.

33. The shaving cartridge of claim 32, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to deflect upon contact with a user's skin.

34. The shaving cartridge of claim 33, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to conform to a contour of the user's skin during shaving.

35. The shaving cartridge of claim 32, wherein the leading portion has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the housing, and tapers to a second, lesser thickness adjacent a center region of the guard.

36. The shaving cartridge of claim 19 further comprising a trimming assembly attached to the housing.

37. The shaving cartridge of claim 36, wherein the trimming assembly includes a trimming blade.

38. A shaving razor including a handle and a cartridge connected to the handle, the shaving razor comprising:

a cartridge housing having a front portion, a rear portion and pivoting structure defining a pivot axis for pivoting of the housing with respect to the handle, and a housing

axis extending from the rear portion to the front portion perpendicular to the pivot axis, the rear portion having a rear surface;

one or more shaving blades between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes that are parallel to the pivot axis and located behind the pivot axis; and

a guard at the front portion of the housing including an elastomeric member that extends along the housing axis in front of the pivot axis by a front distance that is within 45 percent of a rear distance along the housing axis from the pivot axis to the rear surface so as to provide a cartridge that is substantially balanced about the pivot axis.

39. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein the front distance is within 35 percent of the rear distance.

40. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein the front distance is substantially equal to the rear distance.

41. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein the front distance is at least about 3.5 mm.

42. The shaving razor of claim 38 or 41, wherein the rear distance is at most about 11 mm.

43. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein the front distance is between about 5.5 and 6.5 mm.

44. The shaving razor of claim 38 or 43, wherein the rear distance is between about 9.5 and 11 mm.

45. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein the front distance is about 6 mm and the rear distance is about 10 mm.

46. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.

47. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion of the housing in a direction perpendicular to the guard axis and blade axis.

48. The shaving razor of claim 38 further comprising a trimming assembly connected to the housing.

49. The shaving razor of claim 48, wherein the trimming assembly comprises a trimming blade.

50. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein the cartridge is removably connected to the handle.

51. The shaving razor of claim 38, wherein the cartridge is permanently connected to the handle.

52. A method of shaving, the method comprising:

providing a shaving razor including a handle, a shaving cartridge and pivot structure for pivoting the cartridge about a pivot axis with respect to the handle, the shaving cartridge having a front portion and a rear portion and at least one or more shaving blades positioned between the front and rear portions, the one or more blades extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes that are parallel to the pivot axis and located behind the pivot axis, the front portion being free of blades; and

weighting the cartridge against skin, such that the one or more of the shaving blades contact the skin, by applying a force to the handle,

wherein at most about 70 percent of the weight applied to the skin is carried by the front portion of the shaving cartridge, the front portion being defined between a front edge of the shaving cartridge and the pivot axis.